

Summary of DAT Conference Call 6/12/2007

Participants: EChappell (DWR), ROlah (FWS), RGartz(DFG), KFleming(DFG), MWhite(DWR), NHindman(FWS), JSnow(WWD), THinojosa(DWR), MGuerin(CCWD), JSpeegle(FWS), AChu(DWR), TSwanson(BI), TBoardman(SLDMWA), JHannon(BR), CCreel(KCWA), MFord(DWR), ADVorak(SWC)

Conclusions and Recommendations

There were no new operational recommendations today.

20mm Survey Update – DFG completed Survey 7 last week. They have processed all the samples from the first tows. So far, they have caught 3 delta smelt near the confluence. This season DFG has caught a total of 33 larval delta smelt. This the lowest total on record for this time period. The results from the 20mm surveys are posted at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/20mm/>.

DSWG Update – The DSWG met last week to review the results of the PTM runs and to discuss potential actions. DWR modeled three runs the first with combined exports of 1,250cfs (base case), the second with combined exports of 2,500cfs, and the third with combined exports of 5,000cfs. The DSWG used a 30% difference in particle fate as their criterion. The difference in particle fate between the base case and combined exports at 2,500cfs was less than 30%, with the highest entrainment of particles occurring at station 902 (Holland Tract).

The DSWG prepared a flow chart for evaluating potential actions. The flow chart has a water temperature criterion, size of the youngest cohort, smelt distribution, and smelt salvage (see attached file dswg-tree07.ppt). The current distribution of delta smelt is outside of the entrainment zone and no smelt have been salvaged in the last 5 days at CVP. The recent salvage at SWP was of smelt that were entrained into Clifton Court Forebay before pumping was ceased not from the delta. Therefore, the DSWG will recommend 5 days of provisional pumping of a combined 2,500cfs at WOMT today, 6/12. If any delta smelt are salvaged during this 5 day period the current recommendation to moderate Old and Middle River flows would be reinstated. If no delta smelt are salvaged during the 5 day period then normal operations would resume. Normal operations are projected to be combined exports of 5,000cfs with the barriers operating tidally. The DWSG will meet again on Monday, May 18th to continue discussions of potential actions but will meet sooner if necessary.

Tina Swanson (BI) asked if incidental observations would be considered as salvage during the 5 days. Ryan Olah (FWS) responded that that issue was not discussed at the last meeting but if an incidental observation was made the DSWG would meet to discuss potential actions. Tina also raised a concern that the current counts at CVP are not long enough. Kevin Fleming (DFG) responded that it was also a concern for the group and they will continue to discuss it. Jim Snow (WWD) asked what would trigger a change in operations if delta smelt were salvaged after the 5-day provisional period. Ryan responded that the DSWG had not discussed that scenario but that it would be discussed in future meetings.

General Discussion(s) – Tina Swanson again asked for an update on the current status of Tier 3 with an explanation as to why it is not currently being invoked to provide additional assets to continue the protective actions. Ryan Olah responded that the decision on whether to implement Tier 3 or not is still being discussed.

Next DAT Conference Call Tuesday, 6/19/2007, 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Phone number – 916/657-4111.

Delta Smelt Monitoring

Summer Tow Net Survey Update – DFG started the first tow net survey this week. Yesterday, 6/11, they sampled in the south delta but did not catch any delta smelt. Sampling in other areas will continue this week.

20mm Survey Update – DFG completed Survey 7 last week. They have processed all the samples from the first tows. So far, they have caught 3 delta smelt near the confluence. This season DFG has caught a total of 33 larval delta smelt. This the lowest total on record for this time period. The results from the 20mm surveys are posted at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/20mm/>.

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Chinook Monitoring

Upper Sacramento River Summary – fry/smolt Chinook are still being caught in Mill Creek, GCID, and in very low numbers in the Knight Landing rotary screw traps. Steelhead are also being caught in low numbers in the Mill Creek and Knight Landing traps.

Delta Monitoring Summary - Sampling was suspended at most locations to protect delta smelt last week. Therefore, data is only available for the lower Sacramento River seine, the San Joaquin River seine, and the Bay seine. No Chinook were caught at those sites. Sampling, in the Sacramento mid-water trawl and in the Mossdale trawl, resumed this week.

Salvage Facilities –

Summary – SWP resumed limited pumping on June 10th of water from Clifton Court Forebay and pumping at CVP remained low (850cfs) for the protection of delta smelt. Fry/smolt Chinook loss and in-river steelhead salvaged remained low last week. Delta smelt were only salvaged at SWP. Since the Forebay gates were not opened the salvage was of smelt that were brought into the Forebay before pumping ceased at the end of May. The Forebay gates will be opened for 8 hours a day starting today and pumping will occur during daylight hours.

Chinook – No winter-run length Chinook were lost at either Facility in the last week. To date, the season total at the CVP is 1555 and the season total is 1742 at the SWP.

Steelhead – CVP salvaged 12 in-river steelhead last week. The combined salvage of in-river steelhead is 2774 for the season. The incidental take level is 3000. Salvage has remained low since the start of VAMP but biologists will continue to monitor salvage data, Mossdale trawl data, and water temperatures.

Delta smelt – SWP salvaged 27 delta smelt for a season total of 239.

Splittail – CVP salvaged 36 splittail for a season total of 288.

Longfin smelt – None.

Sturgeon – None.

The DFG Salvage Database can be accessed at this ftp site:
<ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>.

Turbidity data for Clifton Court forebay is available at:
<http://cdec2.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryFx?CLC>.

Agricultural Barriers

HORB – The barrier has been completely removed.

Ag barriers –The two flap gates on the Middle River barrier had broken cables that were repaired on 6/6. Based on recent modeling water level may be a concern on Middle River. DWR will monitor water levels this week.

The weekly updates on barrier operations are now available at:
http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/sdb/tbp/index_tbp.cfm.

Operations

SWP -

CCFB – 400 cfs.

Oroville – 1,750 cfs.

X2 – < 81km

E/I - 3-day = 6.3%.

San Luis - ~554 taf. SWP share of San Luis capacity is 1,062 taf.

EWA - The current debt in San Luis for SWP is approximately 310 to 320taf. The current debt in San Luis for CVP is approximately 85 to 90taf. EWA is accruing debt at about 10taf per day for both Projects combined (of which about 4.3 TAF accruing rate per day in keeping Jones Pumping Plant at 850 cfs). The projected carryover debt at the end of year will be more than 100taf. With the existing action continuing, the projected EWA assets will run out around mid June.

CVP -

Tracy PP – 850 cfs.

DCC – Closed. The gates will be closed today and will be reopened on June 15th.

Trinity – 850 cfs.

Clear Creek – 150 cfs.

Keswick – 11,000 cfs.

Nimbus – 1,500 cfs.

Goodwin – 400 cfs.

San Luis – 309 taf. CVP share of San Luis capacity is 966 taf.

Flows

Sacramento River at Freeport ~ 11,000 cfs and decreasing slowly.

Fremont Weir ~ 0.

San Joaquin River at Vernalis ~ 2,100 cfs.

Delta Outflow ~ 9,100 cfs. The 3-day average is 9,650 cfs.

Old and Middle Rivers ~ combined -293 cfs as of 6/8/07; 5-day average is -10 cfs.

Delta Water Quality

Balanced conditions were declared on June 1st. Water quality is okay and salinity standards are below concern levels.

June Water Quality Standards

Collinsville X2 standard – The standard must be met for the full 30 days by a maximum daily EC of 2.64, a maximum 14-day running average EC of 2.64 or 3-day outflow of 7,100cfs.

Chippis Island X2 standard –The standard must be met for 0 days by a maximum daily EC of 2.64, a maximum 14-day running average EC of 2.64 or 3-day outflow of 11,400cfs.

Port Chicago was not triggered for May.

E/I Ratio – $\leq 35\%$.

Contra Costa Canal – CI ≤ 250 mg/L. In addition, CI ≤ 150 mg/L for 165 days per year. This portion of the standard has been met for 137 days so far.

Western Delta – EC ≤ 0.45 at Emmaton until June 15th. San Andreas station will change from 0.45 to 0.58 on 6/25.

South Delta – 30-day average EC ≤ 0.7

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